

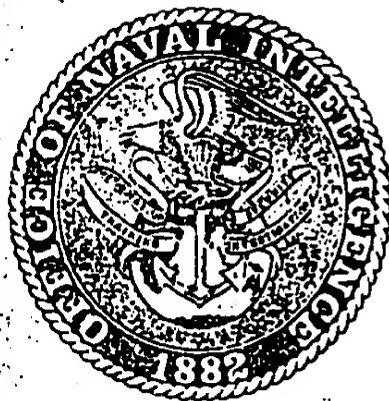
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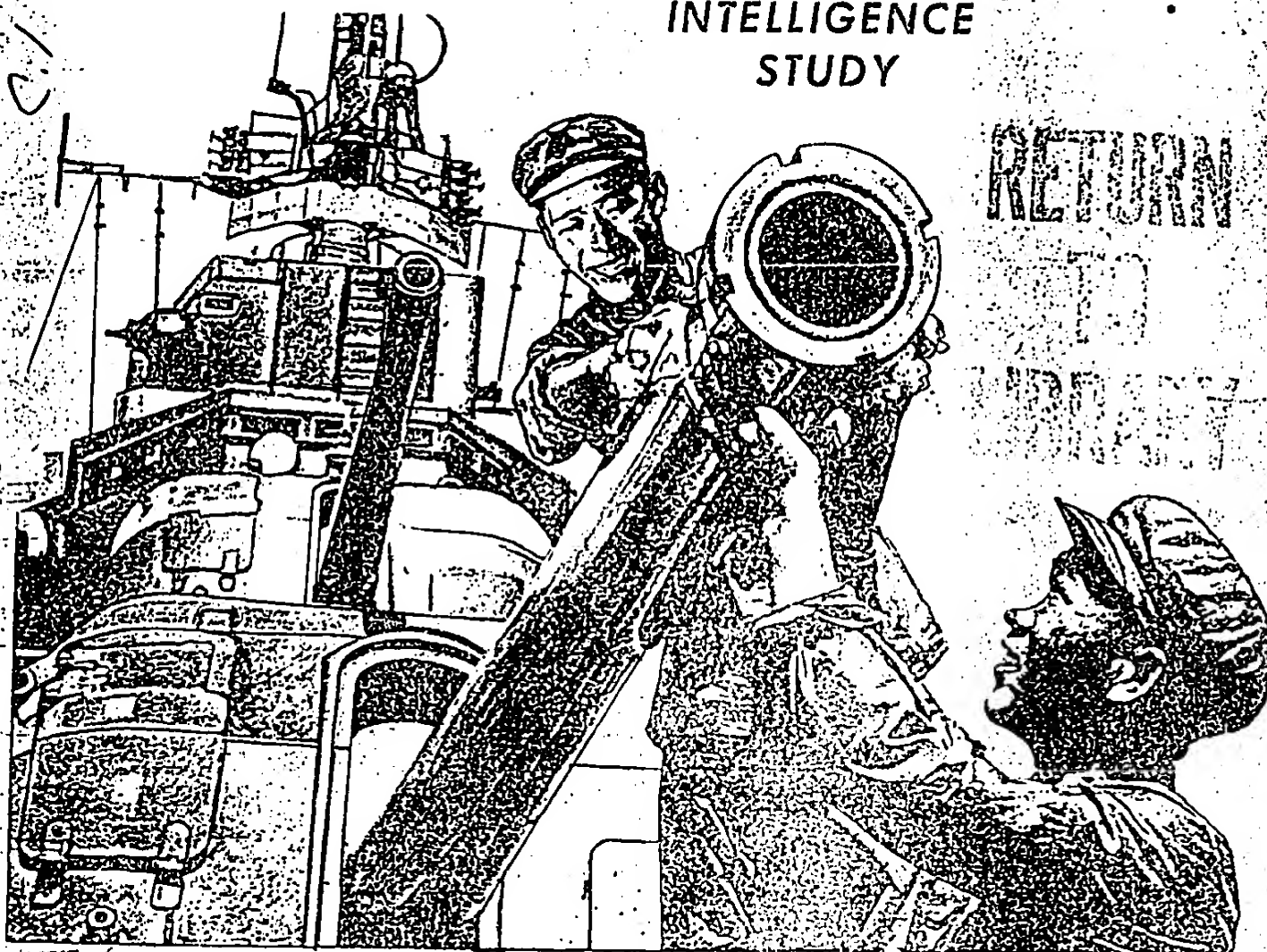
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[CAPABILITY STUDIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
OF CHINA NAVAL FORCES](U)

ABSTRACTS

[VOLUME I

THE PERSONNEL LIFT CAPABILITY  
OF THE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE](U)

(U) [The amphibious lift capability of the People's Republic of China is considered under three different scenarios - an amphibious assault in the Spratly Island area, against Taiwan and against South Korea. The study considers only the lift capability of the amphibious force vessels (to the exclusion of trawlers, junks, etc.) and computes this capability in terms of personnel.]

[VOLUME II

THE PRC FUEL OIL REPLENISHMENT CAPABILITY IN THE  
SPRATLY ISLAND AREA OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA](U)

(U) [Based upon the amount of fuel oil which could be transported to the Spratly Island area by Chinese small transport oilers (AOTLs), this study describes one possible mix of warships and amphibious vessels which could participate in an amphibious assault in the Spratly Island area of the South China Sea.]

(U) [The cut-off date for information used in the preparation of these studies is 15 January 1975.]

((Descriptors: Amphibious Warfare, China, KIANGNAN Class, OSA Class, Refueling, Replenishment, South China Sea, South Korea, Taiwan, Spratly Islands, OOB, Capabilities, LSM, LST, South Sea Fleet, North Sea Fleet, East Sea Fleet, Tanker, LUTA Class, GORDYY Class, RIGA Class, KIANGTUNG Class))

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THE PERSONNEL LIFT CAPABILITY OF  
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CAPABILITY STUDIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
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THE PERSONNEL LIFT CAPABILITY OF  
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VOLUME I

THE PERSONNEL LIFT CAPABILITY OF  
OF THE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE (U)

I. INTRODUCTION

(U) (S) Amphibious warfare ships and craft in the People's Republic of China (PRC) Navy are subordinate to the Main Surface Force in the North Sea Fleet, to the Auxiliary Force in the South Sea Fleet, and to a separate Landing Force in the East Sea Fleet. The term "Amphibious Force," as used in this study, includes all these amphibious warfare ships and craft irrespective of current fleet and force subordination.

(U) In considering the amphibious lift capability of the Amphibious Force of the PRC, two important considerations must be kept in mind. First, the PRC would probably not be the least bit reluctant to employ many vessels not subordinate to the Amphibious Force, such as trawlers, light cargo ships, etc., for an amphibious invasion if the Amphibious Force is considered to be inadequate for a given operation. Secondly, some of the vessels identified as part of the Amphibious Force have been modified by the PRC to perform a dual or alternate function not necessarily related to amphibious operations. No attempt has been made in this study to evaluate either these modifications as they affect the PRC amphibious lift capability or the possibility that non-Amphibious Force vessels would be employed during the scenarios discussed.

(U) (S) Because of the limited number of amphibious vehicles available to the PRC and China's natural inclination to think in terms of manpower as its greatest strength, this study evaluates the amphibious lift capability of the PRC primarily in terms of its personnel-carrying capability.

(U) (S) The potential sites for a PRC amphibious invasion are limited in this study to the islands of the South China Sea (possible), Taiwan (unlikely), and South Korea (remote). All of these sites are within relative geographical proximity to mainland China; therefore, only "short range" amphibious assault scenarios are considered. The Spratly Islands

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have been selected as the southernmost landing site and South Korea as the easternmost site.

(U) (S) The range capability of the assault units has been computed from the various Naval Fleet Headquarters vice the homeport of each vessel: Ch'ing Tao in the North Sea Fleet (NSF), Shanghai in the East Sea Fleet (ESF), and Chan Chiang in the South Sea Fleet (SSF) (see Figure 1).

(U) (S) The approximate minimum distance from each of the fleet headquarters to each of the potential assault areas is presented in Table 1. In the case of the Spratly Island group the distances were measured to the southernmost island, Spratly Island itself.

TABLE 1 (S) (U)

DISTANCES FROM FLEET HEADQUARTERS TO THE ASSAULT AREA

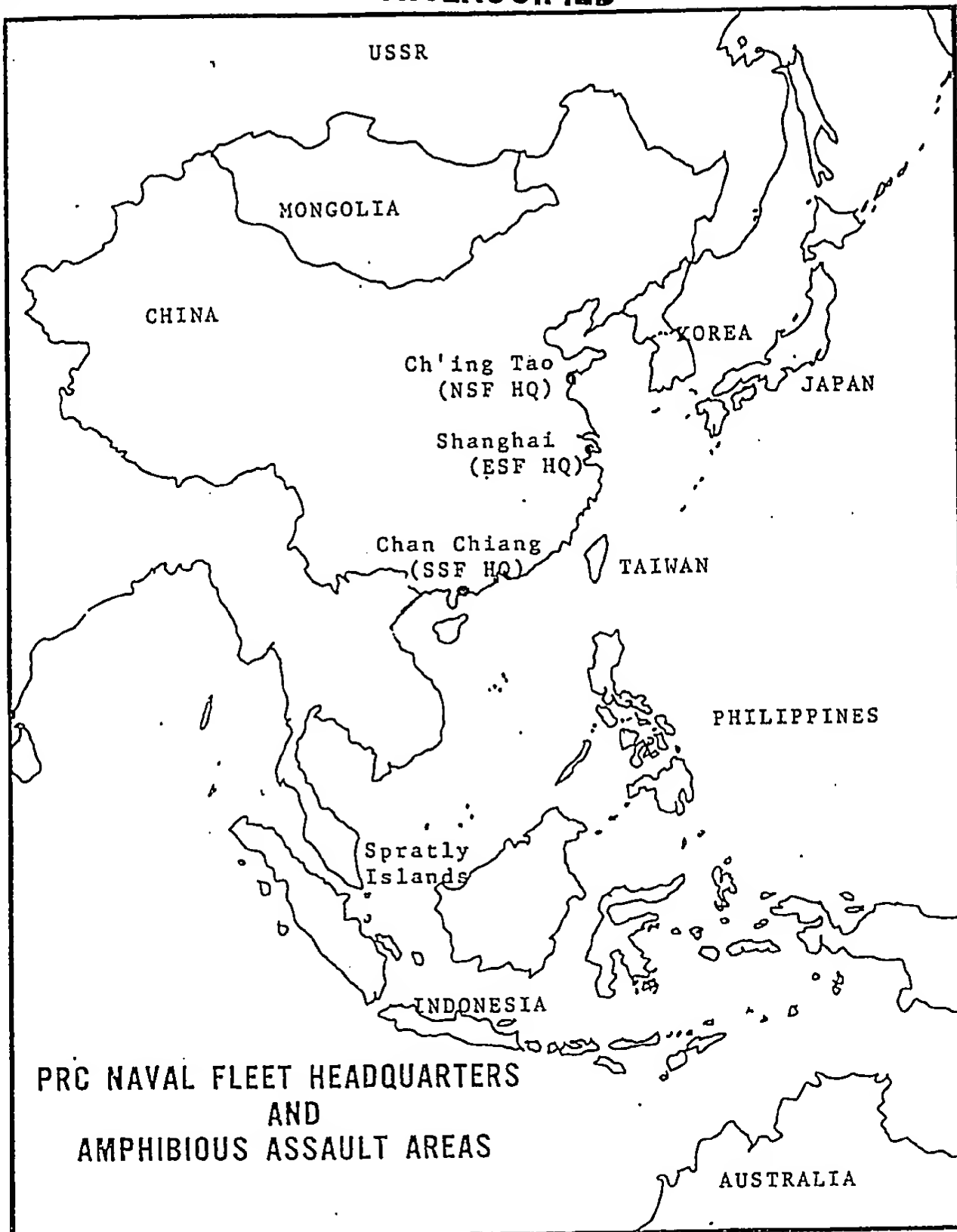
|                   | <u>Spratly Islands</u> | <u>Taiwan</u> | <u>South Korea</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Ch'ing Tao (NSF)  | 2,000 nm               | 700 nm        | 300 nm             |
| Shanghai (ESF)    | 1,500 nm               | 375 nm        | 350 nm             |
| Chan Chiang (SSF) | 800 nm                 | 570 nm        | 1,300 nm           |

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## II. AMPHIBIOUS OOB AND POTENTIAL LIFT CAPABILITY

(U) (S) The PRC Amphibious Force vessel order-of-battle (OOB) by fleet subordination and the vessel characteristics which are critical to amphibious lift capability are presented in Table 2. In estimating the troop carrying capability of vessels originally designed to transport heavy assault equipment, e.g., a tank landing ship (LST), a substitution ratio of one man per 750 pounds of heavy equipment has been used. This number was derived from the officially listed cargo carrying capability of the US LSIL Class Infantry Landing Ship, "200 troops or 75 tons of cargo," and it is reasonable that a man would account for the volume occupied by 750 pounds of heavy equipment. The estimated personnel-carrying capabilities of the vessels which have been calculated using the above relationship are listed in parentheses in Table 2. Such a substitution of personnel for equipment is only valid for relatively short range transits because it does not consider berthing, messing and other required personnel facilities. This limitation will be discussed separately under each scenario. The relative sizes of PRC amphibious vessels are depicted in Figure 2.

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TABLE 2 (S) (u)

AMPHIBIOUS VESSEL ORDER-OF-BATTLE AND CHARACTERISTICS

| TYPE/<br>CLASS                       | SPEED/RANGE<br>(Maximum & Economical) | CARGO                                      | ORDER-OF-BATTLE |     |     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----|-----|
|                                      |                                       |  | NSF             | ESF | SSF |
| <u>Tank Landing Ships (LST)</u>      |                                       |  |                 |     |     |
| U.S. LST-1 Class                     | 10.8 kts/19,800 nm<br>8 kts/38,500 nm | 446 tons plus 137 troops<br>(1,329 troops) | 7               | 6   | 2   |
| <u>Medium Landing Ships (LSM)</u>    |                                       |  |                 |     |     |
| U.S. LSM-1 Class                     | 12.8 kts/3,800 nm<br>6.7 kts/8,000 nm | 147 tons plus 50 troops<br>(442 troops)    | 3               | 8   | 4   |
| YULING Class                         | 12 kts/3,800 nm<br>7 kts/8,000 nm     | 700 tons<br>(1,866 troops)                 | 1               | 0   | 0   |
| <u>Infantry Landing Ships (LSIL)</u> |                                       |  |                 |     |     |
| U.S. LSIL Class                      | 12 kts/5,500 nm<br>9 kts/8,700 nm     | 200 troops<br>or 75 tons                   | 0<br>...        | 4   | 2   |

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TABLE 2 (Cont'd)

| TYPE/<br>CLASS  | SPEED/RANGE<br>(Maximum & Economical) | CARGO                      | ORDER-OF-BATTLE |     |     |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|
|   |                                       |                            | NSF             | ESF | SSF |
| <u>Utility Landing Craft (LCU)</u>  |                                       |                            |                 |     |     |
| U.K. LCT-4 Class  | 10 kts/500 nm<br>8 kts/1,100 nm       | 350 tons<br>(1,033 troops) | 0               | 0   | 1   |
| U.K. LCT-3 Class  | 10.5 kts/1,900 nm<br>9 kts/2,700 nm   | 300 tons<br>(800 troops)   | 0               | 1   | 1   |
| U.S. LCT MK-5 Class   | 8 kts/650 nm<br>5 kts/1,200 nm        | 750 troops<br>or 150 tons  | 0               | 0   | 4   |
| U.S. LCT MK-6 Class   | 8 kts/650 nm<br>5 kts/1,200 nm        | 750 troops<br>or 150 tons  | 1               | 8   | 0   |
| Unidentified Type   | (8 kts/500 nm)<br>(5 kts/1,100 nm)    | (750 troops)               | 1               | 0   | 6   |
| <u>Mechanized Landing Craft (LCM)</u><br>(Only total LCM order-of-battle available) |                                       |                            |                 |     |     |
| YU CHIN & Soviet<br>T-4 Class   | 5.6 kts/unknown                       | 50 tons or 125 troops      | 110             | 190 | 150 |
| YUNNAN & YU CHAI<br>Class   | 10 kts/600 nm                         | 60 tons or 150 troops      |                 |     |     |
| U.S. MK-6 Class   | 9.5 kts/130 nm                        | 34 tons or 120 troops      |                 |     |     |

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# RELATIVE SIZES OF PRC AMPHIBIOUS VESSELS

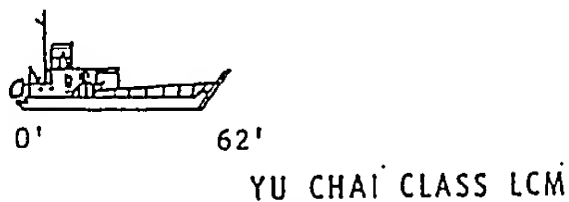
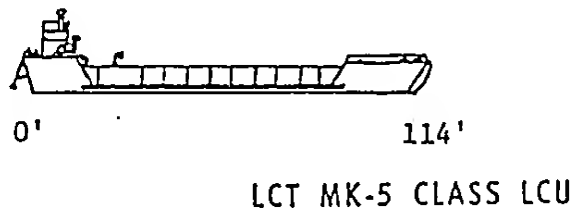
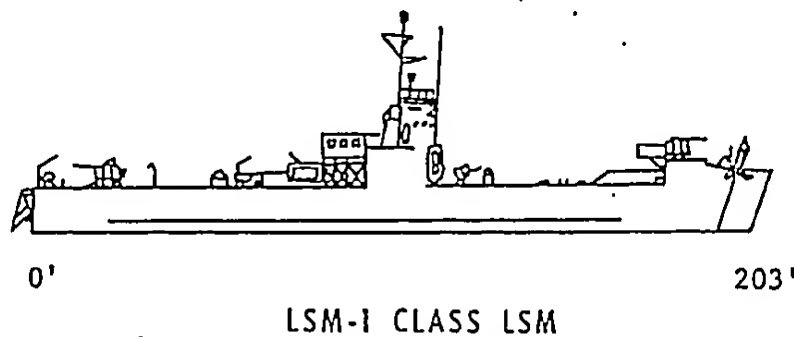
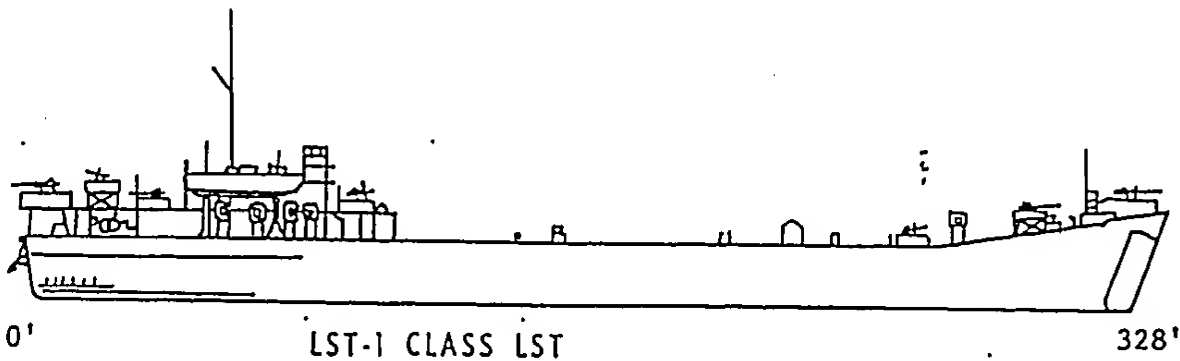


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### III. THE LOGISTIC PROBLEM OF FUEL OIL

(U) In each scenario two options will be presented. The first option assumes no provisions are made to refuel the amphibious ships, thus requiring a round trip capability based on an initial full fuel load. The second option assumes refueling vessels are available and that each amphibious vessel can be refueled prior to its return trip home. In this case an amphibious vessel could participate in the assault if it is capable of a one way transit to the area based on an initial full fuel load.

(U) (S) The refueling capability of the PRC Navy is limited to about 21 small transport oilers (AOTL), none of which has ever been noted conducting underway replenishment (UNREP) operations. Some of the vessels such as the US METTAWEE Class and LEI CHOU Class are not credited with an UNREP capability because of various limitations such as their poor station keeping characteristics in the open ocean, low freeboard when fully loaded, and limited speed capability. (The relative sizes of several classes of PRC AOTLs are depicted in Figure 3.) However, all the PRC AOTLs are capable of transferring fuel to other vessels from a moored or anchored condition; therefore, to avoid speculation concerning an UNREP capability which the PRC Navy has ostensibly decided not to exploit, it is assumed that refueling operations will only occur from stationary AOTLs which have moored or anchored in the vicinity of the assault area. The vulnerability of stationary vessels conducting refueling operations and the attendant requirement for air superiority, etc. are considered only slightly more limiting than during UNREP operations in which vessels are necessarily closely grouped and severely restricted in course, speed and maneuverability. The AOTL OOB and vessel characteristics pertinent to this study are presented in Table 3.

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# RELATIVE SIZES OF PRC SMALL TRANSPORT OILERS

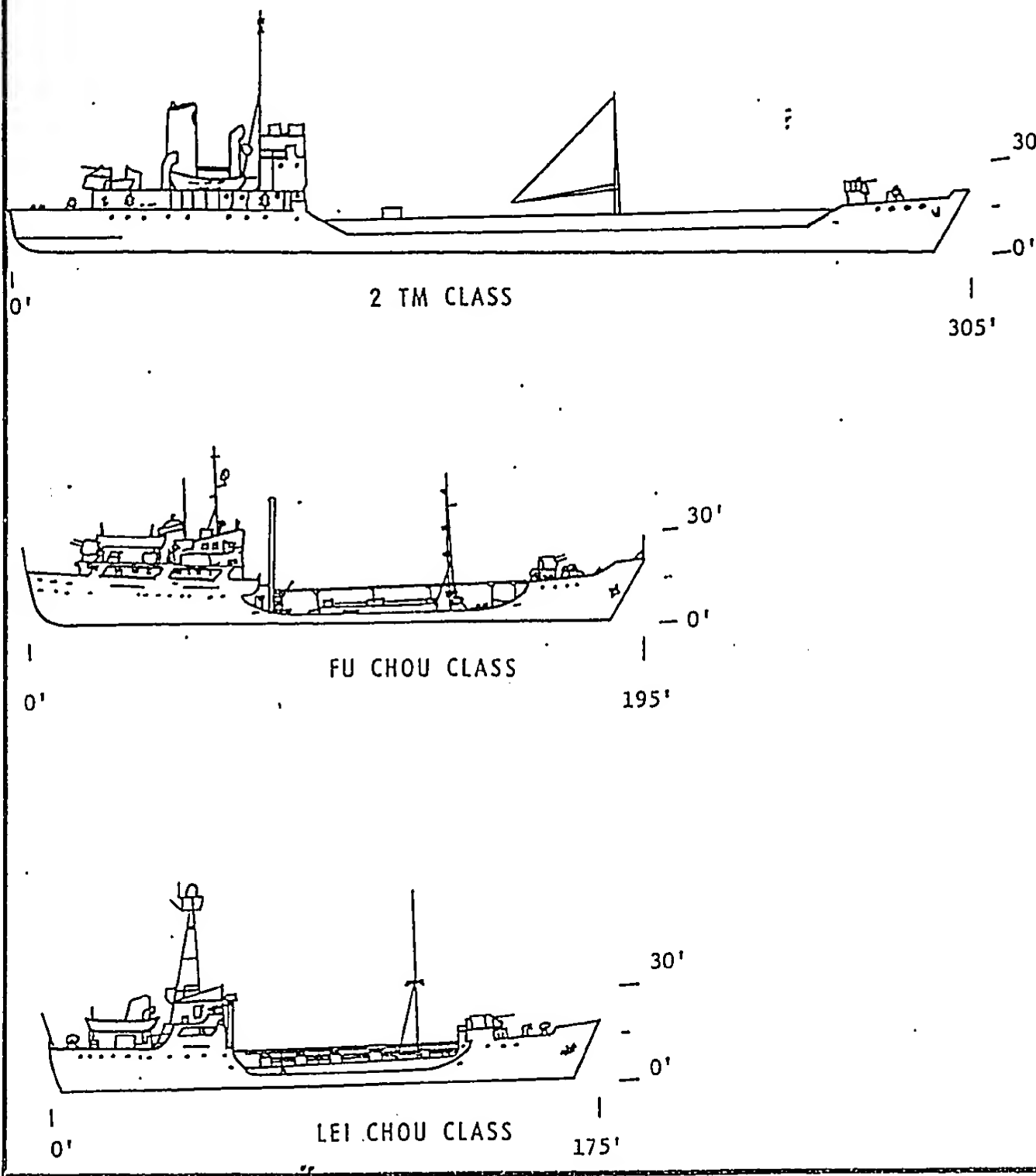


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TABLE 3 (S) (u)

PRC TRANSPORT OILER CHARACTERISTICS AND ORDER-OF-BATTLE

| <u>CLASS</u>        | <u>SPEED/ENDURANCE</u> | <u>FUEL</u>         | <u>LOGISTICS</u>                       | <u>OOB</u>              |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------|
|                     |                        |                     | <u>CARGO (LIQUID)</u>                  |                         |
| UK EBANOL Class     | 8 kts/1,200 nm         | 40 tons<br>fuel oil | 1,000 tons                             | 1 SSF                   |
| Japanese 2 TM Class | 8 kts/3,700 nm         | 240 tons<br>diesel  | 3,700 tons                             | 1 ESF                   |
| US METTAWEE Class   | 6 kts/2,100 nm         | 200 tons<br>diesel  | 1,228 tons                             | 2 ESF                   |
| FU CHOU Class       | 6 kts/2,000 nm         | 60 tons<br>diesel   | 700 tons                               | 5 NSF<br>6 ESF<br>4 SSF |
| KUANG CHOU Class    | 10 kts/1,200 nm        | 10 tons<br>diesel   | 91 tons diesel<br>110 tons fuel<br>oil | 1 SSF                   |
| LEI CHOU Class      | 9 kts/1,800 nm         | 60 tons<br>diesel   | 600 tons                               | 1 NSF<br>1 SSF          |
| FU CHI Class        | 6 kts/2,000 nm         | 40 tons<br>diesel   | 800 tons                               | 2 SSF                   |

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(U) The amount of POL which can be carried to the assault area by the transport oilers has been calculated based on the assumption that, if an AOTL has the capability of reaching the area with its normal fuel load, it can participate in the operation and refuel itself prior to returning to its homeport. In cases where such an internal refueling is required, the amount of POL carried by the vessel (liquid cargo) has been reduced proportionately, prior to calculating the total amount of POL available in the assault area.

(U)(S) Applying the above methodology to the figures in Table 1 (Distances to the Assault Areas) and Table 3 (Transport Oiler Characteristics and Order-of-Battle), it can be shown that:

1. 18,790 tons of POL can be made available in the Spratly Island scenario, with only the NSF subordinated LEI CHOU Class AOTL incapable of participating;
2. 20,656 tons of POL can be made available in the Taiwan scenario, with all AOTLs participating; and
3. 19,334 tons of POL can be made available during the South Korean scenario, with the U.K. EBANOL Class and the KUANG CHOU Class AOTLs unable to make the journey from the SSF.

(U) The replenishment capability represented by 19,000 tons of POL is more than sufficient to justify consideration of the option which involves refueling the amphibious vessels from AOTLs prior to their return transit from the assault area. A precise example of the replenishment capability represented by 19,000 tons of POL is presented in Volume II of this study.

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IV. THE AMPHIBIOUS LIFT CAPABILITY vs SPECIFIC TARGET AREAS

A. Scenario 1: A PRC Amphibious Assault in the Spratly Island Area

(u) (s) In the event of an amphibious assault in the Spratly Island area by the PRC, the amphibious vessels which could be employed are presented below in Table 4.

TABLE 4 (s) (u)

AMPHIBIOUS LIFT CAPABILITY TO THE SPRATLY ISLANDS

|                        | <u>Without Refueling</u>             | <u>Approximate Transit Time Based Upon the Speed of Slowest Vessel</u> | <u>Additional Vessels If One Refueling Is Available</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| From NSF<br>(2,000 nm) | 7 LSTs<br>4 LSMs                     | 8 days   | (none)  |
| From ESF<br>(1,500 nm) | 6 LSTs<br>8 LSMs<br>4 LSILs          | 6 days   | 1 LCU<br>(6 days)                                       |
| From SSF<br>(800 nm)   | 2 LSTs<br>4 LSMs<br>2 LSILs<br>1 LCU | 3 days   | 11 LCUs<br>(7 days)                                     |

(u) (s) Applying the values for personnel-carrying capability presented in Table 2 to the participants listed in Table 4 reveals that the amphibious lift capability during an assault in the Spratly Islands, without refueling, is approximately 31,000 men. With fuel available for replenishment, an additional 9,300 men could participate in the assault, making a total assault force of 40,300 men.

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(U) (S) The transit times of 8 and 6 days from the NSF and ESF, respectively, pose additional questions. Can combat ready troops be confined aboard a vessel such as an LST or LSM for 8 days with field rations for food, little or no space for activity and grossly inadequate personnel facilities, and still be fit to conduct an amphibious assault? The answer must first consider the high probability of a stop-over at a SSF port rather than a direct transit to the landing area, or that the combat personnel may all be embarked at a SSF port as well as the typically spartan living conditions of the PRC soldier. Secondly, an artificial restriction has been included in the transit times by assuming that the vessels from each fleet area would transit together and at the speed of the slowest vessel. It is expected that the vessels would transit in groups with similar engineering capabilities and thereby reduce the overall transit time. The transit times and attendant shipboard inconveniences are not considered restrictive to the PRC under this scenario.

(U) (S) To summarize the PRC amphibious lift capability in the Spratly Islands, if the 40,000 men which could be transported to the area by the amphibious assault vessels all went ashore, they would populate the islands to a density in excess of 66,000 Chinese per square mile.

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B. Scenario 2: A PRC Amphibious Assault on Taiwan

(u)(s) In support of an amphibious assault on Taiwan and dis-  
regarding the likelihood of replenishment stops en route, the following  
forces could be employed.

TABLE 5 (s)(u)

AMPHIBIOUS LIFT CAPABILITY TO TAIWAN

|                      | <u>Without<br/>Refueling</u>          | <u>Approximate Transit<br/>Time Based Upon the<br/>Speed of Slowest<br/>Vessel</u> | <u>Additional Vessels<br/>If One Refueling<br/>Is Available</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| From NSF<br>(700 nm) | 7 LSTs<br>4 LSMs                      | 3 days   | 2 LCUs<br>(4 days)  |
| From ESF<br>(375 nm) | 6 LSTs<br>8 LSMs<br>4 LSILs<br>9 LCUs | 3 days   | A significant<br>number of the<br>190 LCMs.<br>(3 days)         |
| From SSF<br>(570 nm) | 2 LSTs<br>4 LSMs<br>2 LSILs<br>6 LCUs | 5 days   | 6 LCUs<br>(4 days)  |

(u)(s) The total personnel lift capability in this scenario with-  
out refueling is identical to that of the first scenario, with the  
addition of 9 LCUs from the ESF and 6 from the SSF, and is approximately  
41,200 men. With the inclusion of a replenishment, an additional 8 LCUs  
could transport 6,000 men, and the ESF LCMs could transport approximately  
18,000 men for a total amphibious lift capability of 65,000 men. The  
transit times in this scenario are not considered a restriction with  
regard to crew habitability aboard the vessels.

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C. Scenario 3: A PRC Amphibious Assault on South Korea

(u) (s) This scenario also disregards the possibility of replenishment stops en route (especially restrictive with respect to SSF vessels) and concludes that in support of an amphibious assault on South Korea the following forces could be employed:

TABLE 6 (s) (u)

AMPHIBIOUS LIFT CAPABILITY TO SOUTH KOREA

|                        | <u>Without<br/>Refueling</u>                            | <u>Approximate Transit<br/>Time Based Upon the<br/>Speed of Slowest<br/>Vessel</u> | <u>Additional Vessels<br/>If One Refueling<br/>Is Available</u> |
|------------------------|---|--|---|
| From NSF<br>(300 nm)   | 7 LSTs<br>4 LSMs<br>2 LCUs<br>73 LCMs (est)             | 2 days   | None  |
| From ESF<br>(350 nm)   | 6 LSTs<br>8 LSMs<br>4 LSILs<br>9 LCUs<br>125 LCMs (est) | 2 days   | None  |
| From SSF<br>(1,300 nm) | 2 LSTs<br>4 LSMs<br>2 LSILs<br>1 LCU                    | 6 days   | None  |

(u) (s) In this scenario the amphibious lift capability of the PRC is unaffected by the availability of AOTLs and totals 64,500 men.

(u) (s) For reasons similar to those discussed in the first scenario, the 6-day transit time for SSF amphibious vessels is not considered restrictive.

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V. THE AVAILABILITY OF PERSONNEL

(U)(S) The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is capable of providing the personnel for each scenario. The maximum number of troops required in any scenario is less than 66,000, while the number of PLA forces stationed within each of those military regions, which include a Naval Fleet Headquarters, is in excess of 200,000 men.

VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

(U)(S) There have been occasional reports of amphibious training exercises in China, indicating at least a basic awareness of the problems involved in an amphibious assault. The professionalism and competence of the Chinese personnel who made the amphibious landings in the Paracel Islands during January 1974 were outstanding and, if used as a measure, indicate that the PRC has an effective amphibious landing force.

(U)(S) The ability of the PRC Navy's Amphibious Force to transport PLA troops to an assault area is considerable. If one also considers the large number of PRC vessels capable of transporting personnel but not technically "amphibious vehicles" and therefore not included in this analysis, (merchant ships, trawlers, junks, etc.) and in light of the 3,000,000 men in the PLA, the PRC amphibious assault capability over relatively short distances is very significant.

(U)(S) In summary, the strength of number of which the PRC is feared as a land power can easily be extended to include short range amphibious assault operations, and this overwhelming numerical strength will probably overcome any lack of technical expertise during such an operation. The amphibious assault capability of the PRC appears to satisfy its current needs and if called upon to perform would indeed represent a potent force.

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VOLUME II

THE PRC FUEL OIL REPLENISHMENT CAPABILITY IN THE  
SPRATLY ISLAND AREA OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA (U)

I. INTRODUCTION

(U) (S) As shown in Section III of the first volume of this study, 18,790 tons of POL can be made available for replenishment in the Spratly Island area of the South China Sea by Chinese AOTLs.

(U) (S) The underway replenishment capability of the AOTLs will again be avoided, and it will be assumed that all replenishment occurs from stationary AOTLs which are either moored or anchored in the vicinity of Spratly Island.

(U) (S) The "replenishment capability" of the PRC is presented in terms of the warships which could be provided with sufficient replenishment fuel to permit 3,000 miles of operations in the vicinity of the Spratly Islands, exclusive of the transit mileage to and from the Islands. It is assumed that all warships are homeported at their respective fleet headquarters for the purpose of computing transit distances to the Spratly Islands. The distance from each of the fleet headquarters to Spratly Island - the southernmost and therefore the most distant of the Spratly Island group - is as follows:

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| a. From Ch'ing Tao (NSF Headquarters)  | 2,000 nm |
| b. From Shanghai (ESF Headquarters)    | 1,500 nm |
| c. From Chan Chiang (SSF Headquarters) | 800 nm   |

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II. WARSHIP CHARACTERISTICS AND ORDER-OF-BATTLE

(U) (S) The fuel capacity, endurance capability at economical speed, and OOB of the PRC naval warships which might participate in an operation in the Spratly Island area of the South China Sea are listed in Table 1. Since all replenishment is assumed to occur in the vicinity of Spratly Island and since no provisions have been made for vessels to stop at ports en route (for example, a NSF unit refueling at Hainan Island), vessels which are incapable of transiting to Spratly Island from their respective fleet headquarters have been omitted from the OOB presented in Table 1. Worthy of note is the fact that the economical range of a SHANGHAI-II Class PGM is only 725 nm, thus making it incapable of participating in any of the scenarios.

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TABLE 1 (S)(u)

WARSHIP CHARACTERISTICS AND ORDER-OF-BATTLE

| <u>Type/Class</u>                    | <u>Fuel Capability/Endurance</u> | <u>Order-of-Battle</u> |            |            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|
|                                      |                                  | <u>NSF</u>             | <u>ESF</u> | <u>SSF</u> |
| <u>Destroyer Types</u>               |                                  |                        |            |            |
| LUTA (DDGS)                          | 800 tons/4,600 nm                | 2                      | 0          | 2          |
| GORDYY (DDGS)                        | 400 tons/2,640 nm                | 4                      | 0          | 0          |
| RIGA (DEGS)                          | 230 tons/2,450 nm                | 0                      | 4          | 0          |
| KIANGTUNG (DEG)                      | 300 tons/4,500 nm                | 0                      | 1          | 0          |
| KIANGNAN (DE)                        | 230 tons/3,000 nm                | 0                      | 1          | 4          |
| <u>Motor Gunboats (PGM)</u>          |                                  |                        |            |            |
| SWATOW                               | 10 tons/900 nm                   | 0                      | 0          | 21         |
| <u>Patrol Escorts (PF)</u>           |                                  |                        |            |            |
| KAIBOKAN, UKURU,<br>ETOROFU & FLOWER | 240 tons (max)/4,500 nm (min)    | 2                      | 6          | 1          |
| CASTLE                               | 480 tons/9,100 nm                | 0                      | 1          | 0          |
| HASHIDATE                            | 170 tons/3,460 nm                | 0                      | 1          | 0          |
| <u>Fleet Minesweepers (MSF)</u>      |                                  |                        |            |            |
| T-43                                 | 61 tons/3,200 nm                 | 7                      | 8          | 8          |
| <u>Large Submarine Chasers (PC)</u>  |                                  |                        |            |            |
| HAINAN                               | 25 tons/2,000 nm                 | 5                      | 4          | 8          |
| KRONSHADT                            | 30 tons/1,400 nm                 | 0                      | 0          | 6          |

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TABLE 1 (Cont'd)

| <u>Type/Class</u>                               | <u>Fuel Capability/Endurance</u> | <u>Order-of-Battle</u> |            |            |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|
|   |                                  | <u>NSF</u>             | <u>ESF</u> | <u>SSF</u> |
| <u>Large Guided Missile Patrol Boats (PTFG)</u> |                                  |                        |            |            |
| OSA   | 40 tons/1,500 nm                 | 0                      | 24         | 10         |
| <u>Submarines (SS)</u>                          |                                  |                        |            |            |
| WHISKEY   | 118 tons/2,400 nm                | 13                     | 8          | 0          |
| ROMEO   | 120 tons/2,400 nm                | 11                     | 9          | 14         |

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### III. PRC WARSHIP SUPPORT CAPABILITY IN THE SPRATLY ISLANDS

(U) In deciding which warships would be deployed to the Spratly Islands during a naval/amphibious operation, assume at least one vessel of each type capable of participating in the operation will be deployed and that the deployment sequence will minimize the transit distance. For example, if the same type vessel is available for deployment from each fleet area, those from the SSF will be deployed first followed by those from the ESF and finally those from the NSF.

(U)(S) In the amphibious assault scenario, the 18,790 tons of POL which can be transported to the Spratly Islands must be reduced by the amount required by the amphibious vessels prior to developing an allocation plan among combatants. In Volume I of this study, it was noted that the 12 utility landing craft (LCUs) would require refueling prior to returning to home port. All 12 of these vessels could be refueled with less than 290 tons, leaving at least 18,500 tons of POL for warship replenishment and support of the landing parties.

(U)(S) Based on the requirement for the warships to complete the round trip transit to Spratly Island and 3,000 nm of operations in the vicinity of the island, the POL replenish capability of the Chinese AOTLs could support:

- 5 guided missile destroyers,
- 5 guided missile destroyer escorts,
- 5 destroyer escorts,
- 15 motor gunboats,
- 10 patrol escorts,
- 10 fleet minesweepers,
- 15 large submarine chasers,
- 20 large guided missile patrol boats,
- and 20 submarines

and still have about 6,000 tons of POL available for support of amphibious forces ashore. The unit availability and fuel requirements of such an armada are presented in Table 2.

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TABLE 2 (S)(u)

PRC ARMADA IN THE SPRATLY ISLANDS

| <u>Vessel</u>             | <u>No.</u> | <u>Fleet<br/>Origination</u> | <u>Fuel Required<br/>For Return<br/>Transit</u> | <u>Fuel Required to<br/>Allow 3,000 nm<sup>2</sup><br/>Steaming in Area</u> |
|---------------------------|------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| <u>Destroyer Types</u>    |            |                              |   |   |
| LUTA (DDGS)               | 2          | SSF                          | 0   | 0   |
| LUTA (DDGS)               | 1          | NSF                          | 0   | 550 tons  |
| GORDYY (DDGS)             | 2          | NSF                          | 800 tons  | 950 tons  |
| KIANGNAN (DE)             | 4          | SSF                          | 0   | 600 tons  |
| KIANGNAN (DE)             | 1          | ESF                          | 20 tons   | 275 tons  |
| KIANGTUNG (DEG)           | 1          | ESF                          | 0   | 275 tons  |
| RIGA (DEGS)               | 4          | ESF                          | 0   | 1,025 tons  |
| <u>Motor Gunboats</u>     |            |                              |   |   |
| SWATOW (PGM)              | 15         | SSF                          | 150 tons  | 500 tons  |
| <u>Patrol Escorts</u>     |            |                              |   |   |
| ETOROFU (PF)              | 1          | SSF                          | 0   | 10 tons   |
| KAIBOKAN (PF)             | 1          | NSF                          | 0   | 175 tons  |
| (Various classes)         | 8          | ESF                          | 0   | 1,300 tons  |
| <u>Fleet Minesweepers</u> |            |                              |   |   |
| T-43 (MSF)                | 8          | SSF                          | 0   | 225 tons  |
| T-43 (MSF)                | 2          | ESF                          | 0   | 125 tons  |

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TABLE 2 (Cont'd)

| <u>Vessel</u>                            | <u>No.</u> | <u>Fleet<br/>Orig-<br/>nation</u> | <u>Fuel Required<br/>For Return<br/>Transit</u> | <u>Fuel Required to<br/>Allow 3,000 nm<br/>Steaming in Area</u> |
|--|------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <u>Large Submarine Chasers</u>           |            |                                   |   |   |
| KRONSHADT (PC)                           | 6          | SSF                               | 30 tons   | 400 tons  |
| HAINAN (PC)                              | 8          | SSF                               | 0   | 200 tons  |
| HAINAN (PC)                              | 1          | ESF                               | 15 tons   | 50 tons   |
| <u>Large Guided Missile Patrol Boats</u> |            |                                   |   |   |
| OSA-I (PTFG)                             | 10         | SSF                               | 50 tons   | 825 tons  |
| OSA-I (PTFG)                             | 10         | ESF                               | 400 tons  | 825 tons  |
| <u>Submarines</u>                        |            |                                   |   |   |
| WHISKEY and<br>ROMEO (SS)                | 14         | SSF                               | 0   | 1,625 tons  |
| WHISKEY and<br>ROMEO (SS)                | 6          | ESF                               | 200 tons  | 900 tons  |
| Totals                                   |            |                                   | 1,665 tons                                      | 10,835 tons   |
| Grand Total: 12,500 tons                 |            |                                   |   |   |

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#### IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

(U) (C) The PRC Navy has apparently chosen not to develop an underway replenishment capability nor to operate at great distances from mainland China; therefore, their capabilities in these areas are open to question. China's methods are typically not sophisticated, much of their naval equipment and ships are outmoded, and they are oriented towards a defensive naval strategy. However, regardless of these facts, the Chinese have a significant offensive potential under specific scenarios. The defensive nature of the Chinese naval force also permits Peking to be selective in its offensive operations, and like any "guerrilla force," it will only take the offensive under favorable conditions.

(U) In summary the PRC has at least a latent capability for POL replenishment of warships in support of naval operations and they could probably "get the job done" if employing even the most basic transport and operational methods.

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| FA23            | D332                     | COMNAVFAC KEFLAVIK       |
| FA24            | J522                     | COMNAVBASE GTMO          |
| FB1             | K505                     | FICPAC                   |
| FB36            | D319                     | COMNAVFAC ADAK           |
| FE1             | D505                     | COMNAVSECGRU             |
| FA6A2           | D217                     | NAVWPNSCEN               |
| FA6A10          | D263                     | NELC*                    |
| FA6A11          | D506                     | NAVUSEACEN               |
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